1: DeLand O-4 (No date)1908 NQ17 Mandan NQ17

of the upper region; men, women and children ascended by means of the vine; but when about half the nation had reached the surface of the earth, a corpulent woman, who was clambering up the vine, broke it with her weight, and closed upon herself and the rest of the nation the light of the sun. Those who were left on earth made a village below, where we saw the nine villages; and when the Mandans die they expect to return to the original seats of their forefathers; the good reaching the ancient village by means of the lake, which the burdens of the sins of the wicked will not enable them to cross." (id 191.)

Buffalo Chase. "Friday, December 7th. The wind still continued from the northwest, and the day is very cold. Shahaka, the chief of the lower village, came to apprise us that the buffalo were near, and that his people were waiting for us to join them in the chase. Captain Clarke with fifteen men went out and found the Indians engaged in killing the buffalo, the hunters mounted on horseback and armed with bows and arrows encircled the herd, and gradually drive them into a plain or an open place fit for the movements of horse; they then ride in among them, and singling out a buffalo, a female being preferred, go as close as possible and wound her with arrows till they think they have given the mortal stroke; then they pursue another till the quiver is exhausted. If, which rarely happens, the wounded buffalo attacks the hunter, he evades his blow by the agility of his horse, which is trained for the combat with great dexterity. When they have killed the requisite number they collect their game, and the squaws and attendants come up from the rear and skin and dress the animals. Captain Clarke killed ten buffalo, of which only five were brought to the fort, the rest, which could not be conveyed home, being seized by the Indians, among whom the custom is, that whenever a buffalo is found dead without an arrow, or any particular mark, he is the property of the finder; so that often a hunter secures scarcely any of the game he kills, if the arrow happens to fall off; whatever is left out at night falls to the share of the wolves, who are the constant and numerous attendants of the buffalo." (id 193.)

Mandan Games. "Wednesday, 19th. The weather moderated, and the river rose a little, so that we were unable to continue the picketing of the fort. Notwithstanding the extreme cold, we

1: DeLand O-4 (No date)1908 NQ17 Mandan NQ17

524 observe the Indians at the village engaged out in the open air, at a game which resembled billiards more than anything we had seen, and which we are inclined to suspect may have been acquired by ancient intercourse with the French of Canada. From the first to the second chief's lodge, a distance of about fifty yards, was covered with timber, smoothed and joined so as to be as level as the floor of one of our houses, with a battery at the end to stop the rings; these rings were of clay-stone, and flat like the chequers for drafts, and the sticks were about four feet long, with two short pieces at one end in the form of a mace, so fixed, that the whole will slide along the board. Two men fix themselves at one end, each provided with a stick, and one of them with a ring; they then run along the board, and about half way slide the sticks after the ring." (id 196.)

437 "Saturday, 22nd. A number of squaws and men dressed like squaws brought corn to trade for small articles with the men. Among other things we procured two horns of the animal called by the French, the Rock mountain sheep, and known to the Mandans by the name of ahsahta. The animal itself is about the size of a small elk or large deer; the horn winding like those of a ram, which they resemble also in texture, though larger and thicker."

Mandan Food. "Sunday, 23rd. The weather was fine and warm like that of yesterday. We were again visited by crowds of Indians of all descriptions, who came either to trade, or from mere curiosity. Among the rest Kogahami, the Little Raven, 252 brought his wife and son loaded with corn, and she then entertained us with a favorite Mandan dish, a mixture of pumpkins, beans, corn and chokecherries with the stones, all boiled together in a kettle, and forming a composition by no means unpalatable." (id 197.)

000 **Christmas.** "Tuesday, 25th. We were awakened before day by a discharge of three platoons from the party. We had told the Indians not to visit us, as it was one of our great medicine days; so that the men remained at home and amused themselves in various ways, particularly with dancing, in which they take great pleasure. The American flag was hoisted for the first time in the fort; the best provisions we had were brought out, and this, with a little brandy, enabled them to pass the day in great festivity." (id 198.)

3: Will and Spinden E-5 (1905) 1906
NQ17 Mandan NQ17

164 DISEASE AND THE CURE OF DISEASE:—The Mandans were as a rule a very healthy people and their catalogue of diseases was small, being mostly those which of necessity accompany a life of considerable hardship. Catarrhal troubles, snow blindness, rheumatism and hemoptisis were most common. They had no fevers and no consumption; venereal diseases were found, but the Mandans always claimed that these were got from the Crows. Their other troubles were wounds, snake bites and freezing. Maximilian said that he also found cases of the gout among them.

757 Colds and catarrhal troubles and rheumatism were treated in the vapor bath which is found in one form or another among most Indian tribes. The patient was steamed well and then immediately plunged into icy water or snow, from there he went into the house where he was kept wrapped up for some time. The snow blindness was treated by gentle sweating. Cataracts and inflammation of the eyes resulted from snow blindness at times, and the inflammation was treated by rubbing with some herb which had a rough surface. With this the eyeball was rubbed till blood flowed. Bleeding was practiced, and rattle-snake rattles were considered to be a remedy for almost anything. The rattles were powdered fine, mixed with water or saliva and either swallowed or rubbed on the parts affected. The Mandans used no emetics but had a number of vegetable purgatives. Lewis and Clarke described a root which was chewed and placed on a snake bite, they called it Sackacomah but it has not been identified botanically. Freezing was treated by rubbing with snow. Horses were sometimes given a piece of wasp's nest as a diuretic.

752 Wounds healed with remarkable rapidity and had very little care. Severe cuts were rubbed with fat and sometimes bound up. A number of cases were known where persons who had been scalped recovered. In arrow wounds the point was always forced entirely through the flesh if possible because it came out more easily so.

● 524 GAMES:— The Mandans had games for men, women and children, and in most of these betting was an important part of the sport. Probably the best known of these games was

3:Will and Spinden E-5 (1905) 1906
NQ17 Mandan NQ17

Skohpe, Tchung-kee or Billiards as some have called it. Henry[1] gives a good account of the method of play:

"Two persons are each provided with a stick six feet long on which are cut a certain number of notches an inch long; in the intervals of which are fixed the same number of small bunches of feathers of diverse colors, with three pieces of wood sixteen inches square one near each end and one in the middle; these are perforated in the center and through them is passed the rod .... Each notch has a particular mark..... The ground is a smooth level place forty paces long by five broad. The players stand side by side and start from one end .... and trot .... half way through, when one of them throws a ball .... and both players push their rods forward to overtake, and keep pace with the ball. They then examine the bunch at which the ball stops."

Catlin[2] also describes it, saying that Tchung-kee was played on a smooth clay pavement. Two champions chose sides. One rolled a stone ring, the other slid a stick alongside, this stick had leather projections on which the ring should catch. The points were game, one, two, and four, depending on which projection the ring caught upon. The last winner always rolled the ring. If either failed he forfeited the amount of the number nearest to which his stick stopped and lost his throw, another taking his place.

There seems to have been two forms of the game. The Hidatsa and Arikara played it, the latter considering it to some extent as a religious ceremony. Maximilian[3] tells us that the Pawnees also played it, but differently. Similar games were found throughout the southeast.

In addition to Skohpe the men had horse races, foot races, and, according to Maximilian, sham battles. Catlin speaks of the games of moccasin and platter. Verendrye says the men played a game of ball on the ramparts, but this was probably Skohpe. The horse race was run in a circle about the village. Maximilian tells us that as many as twenty men ran in the foot races, and the races are mentioned by other writers. The men raced usually over a course about seven miles long. They had

[1] Op. cit., vol. I, p. 262. [2] Op. cit., vol. I, p. 132. [3] Op. cit., p. 417.

7: Catlin R, E-5 (1832-1840) 1857
NQ17 Mandan NQ17

34

789
361

58

●524

59

[facing p. 132]